

SENATE JUDICIARY
EXHIBIT NO. 8
DATE 3/26/09
BILL NO. HB228

March 22, 2009

Subject: OPPOSE HB228

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee –

Attached please find a resolution opposing HB228 from the Montana Associated Students (MAS). MAS represents the over 42,000 students of the Montana University System, and unanimously approved this resolution. The reasons for concern are outlined in this document, and MAS strongly urges a do not pass on HB 228.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue.

Please contact Maureen Weiland with any questions:
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RESOLUTION
of the
MONTANA ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
RELATING TO OPPOSITION OF HB228

WHEREAS, Montana communities that house our University's serve as homes, work, and schools for tens of thousands of students, faculty, and staff;

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Regents have a policy prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons on Montana campuses;

WHEREAS, the Montana Associated Students (MAS) recognize and respect the rights of law-abiding citizens of Montana to keep and bear arms provided by the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, the current law of the State of Montana allows for citizens with a permit to carry concealed weapons;

WHEREAS, HB 228, proposed by Representative Krayton Kerns and passed by the 2009 Montana House of Representatives on February 10, 2008, seeks to make many changes to Montana law regarding access to and use of weapons,

WHEREAS, passage of HB 228 would allow anyone, including convicted felons, to carry concealed weapons in Montana cities and towns without a permit (*MCA 48-5-316.2*);

WHEREAS, passage HB 228 allows individuals to brandish a weapon without being prosecuted (*New Section 3.2-3*);

WHEREAS, HB 228 makes it a lawful to respond in self-defense with deadly force to the display of a weapon (*New Section 2*);

WHEREAS, students have the right to feel safe on campus;

THEREFORE LET IF BE RESOLVED, that MAS opposes HB 228;

THEREFORE LET IF BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the three student lobbyists will work to defeat HB 228;

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Associated Students will provide copies of this resolution to their local legislative delegations and continue to lead and support these efforts.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2009

Member voting for: University of Montana, Montana State University, Montana Tech, Montana Western, Montana State University – Billings, Montana State University Great Falls COT, Montana State University Northern, Miles City Community College

Members voting against: _____

Trevor Hunter
MAS President
Missoula

Taylor Nahrgang
MAS Vice President
Dillon

Robert Barnosky
MAS Treasurer
Billings